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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|--|---|---------------|-------------------|
| In re United States Patent Application of:           | ) | Docket No.:   | 4172-120          |
| Applicants: RAY, R. ESHRAGHI, ET AL.                 | ) | Conf. No.:    | 1569              |
| Application No.: 10/811,347                          | ) | Art Unit:     | 1732              |
| Date Filed: March 26, 2004                           | ) | Examiner:     | Mathieu D. Vargot |
| Title: PROCESS FOR<br>MANUFACTURING<br>HOLLOW FIBERS | ) | Customer No.: | 23448             |

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION CERTIFICATE

ATTN: Examiner Mathieu D. Vargot

Fax No. (571) 273-8300

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Number of Pages

Tracey Langston

March 19, 2007

Date

RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 23, 2007 OFFICE ACTION IN  
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 10/811,347

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

4172-120

Sir:

This responds to the February 23, 2007 Office Action in the above-referenced application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has imposed a species requirement on the pending claims, indicating that the prior species election requirement to which applicants have responded on November 22, 2006 is now vacated and replaced by a substitute species requirement, between:

- Species A, directed to employing a solid core fiber and removable substrate material (claims 1-22, 81);
- Species B, directed to using a solid core fiber as the removable substrate material (claims 23-45, 82);
- Species C, directed to employing a swellable membrane forming material over the solid core (claims 44-55, 83);
- Species D, directed to employing a solid core fiber and an ion exchange material (claims 56-65, 84);
- Species E, directed to using a solid core fiber and a mixture of membrane forming and poor forming material (claim 66-68, 85); and
- Species F, directed to using the solid core fiber and a mixture of membrane forming material and reinforcing fibers (claims 71 and 86).

In response to the Examiner's requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species, applicants hereby elect Species A (claims 1-22, 81).

The Examiner has further required an identification of all claims readable on the elected species. Species A has been defined with reference to the appertaining claims 1-22, 81, and the claims readable on such species are claims 1-22 and 81.

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It therefore is requested that examination of this application proceed, consistent with the foregoing election.

Respectfully submitted,



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